

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

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R 231410Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7775

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR AG MO MR LY XF TS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI REPORTS ON TUNISIA'S FOREIGN
RELATIONS

1. DURING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION OF CY 1975 GOT
BUDGET, FOREIGN MINISTER HABIB CHATTI GAVE DEPUTIES A TOUR D'HORIZON
OF TUNISIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS. AS REPORTED IN DECEMBER 22 RADIO
NEWS, CHATTI DISCUSSED TUNISIA'S FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA AND
MOROCCO AND GOT'S VIEWS OF MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE. REGARDING ALGERIA,
HE SAID THAT THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE
HAVE BEEN FULLY BALANCED BY CLOSE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL
RELATIONS IN ECONOMIC SPHERE. HE CATALOGUED JOINT
TUNISO-ALGERIAN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT HIS STATEMENT.
REGARDING MOROCCO, HE SAID THAT THE LONGSTANDING FRIENDLY
RELATIONS IN POLITICAL AREA HAVE NOT BEEN ROUNDED OUT WITH
CLOSE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS WOULD SOON
BE REMEDIED. CONCERNING MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO HE DECLARED THAT
DISPUTE OVER FUTURE OF SPANISH SAHARA BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
WAS REGRETTABLE SINCE IT ONLY FACILITATED SPAIN'S REMAINING
DOMINANCE IN THE TERRITORY.

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2. MOVING TOWARD WIDER AREA OF ARAB RELATIONS, CHATTI
DISCUSSED GOT ATTITUDE TOWARD MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE,
DECLARING THAT TUNISIA FAVORED A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BASED
ON THE UN'S 1947 PARTITION PLAN. CHATTI SAID, HOWEVER,
THAT TUNISIA'S PREFERENCE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION DOES NOT MEAN
THAT THE ARABS CAN STAND WAITING WITH THEIR ARMS FOLDED FOREVER.

3. COMMENT: CHATTI'S DISCUSSION BROKE NO NEW GROUND,
ALTHOUGH IT DID SERVE TO UNDERLINE TUNISIAN BELIEF THAT
TUNISO-MOROCCAN POLITICAL RELATIONS HAVE IN FACT RETURNED TO AN
EVEN KEEL. MORE INTERESTING WAS THE CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE OF ANY
REMARKS ON RELATIONS WITH LIBYA. AS WE HAVE NOTED (SEE TUNIS
7813, AND 7659), GOT IS CONCERNED OVER LIBYA'S SUPPORT FOR
TUNISIAN SUBVERSIVES AND CHATTI'S TREATMENT REFLECTS THAT CONCERN.
SEELYE

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